

Swan Lake NWR

Waterfowl Hunting Unit Information Sheet

The sheet provides information for each waterfowl hunting unit on Swan Lake NWR. Please keep in mind that conditions in some units can change due to flooding or excessive rain/drought. Please keep in mind that Swan Lake NWR can get unexpected floods from the Grand River and Yellow Creek, which might result in an unexpected temporary closer of hunting units til flood waters recede and any repairs are made to roads, etc. The units most susceptible to flooding are the S, T, and W units. The other units are far less likely to be closed due to flooding. **In the event of a closure you will not be refunded your permit fees as those cover the cost of administering the draw.**

Hunters must park in designated parking areas for each unit. You can drop your gear off along any open road that is closer to your blind and then drive your vehicle back to the designated parking lot for your unit. **Access roads and parking areas are extremely tight therefore we do not allow trailers to access the hunting units as they cause problems with traffic flow and are difficult to turn around.**

Harvest data from the 2015 hunting season is presented in a table at the bottom. Units A3, B4, H2, R1, R4, and V1 will not be included in the draw this year. In addition, we are adding a unit S4. S4 results can be expected to be similar to those from S1-S3.

Hunting Unit R1

This unit will be open during the late Goose season only. Hunters must hunt from the blind in this unit. Blind is a short walk from the roadway. This unit will not be awarded through the draw but by check in at the Hunting Headquarters on Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the late Goose season from 5-7 AM, during that time both waterfowl and geese may be harvested so long as the season are open.

Habitat Conditions: This is in an ag field with no water in the unit. The ag field is currently planted in soybeans but will be planted with cover crops consisting of (Hairy Vetch, Crimson Clover, Cowpeas, Field Peas, Buckwheat, Spring Oats, Oilseed radish, and Pearl Millet) in October 2016.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit R4

This unit will be open during the late Goose season only. Hunters must hunt from the blind in this unit. Blind is a short walk from the roadway. This unit will not be awarded through the draw but by check in at the Hunting Headquarters on Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the late Goose season from 5-7 AM, during that time both waterfowl and geese may be harvested so long as the season are open.

Habitat Conditions: This is in an ag field with no water in the unit. The ag field is currently planted in soybeans but will be planted with cover crops consisting of (Hairy Vetch, Crimson Clover, Cowpeas, Field Peas, Buckwheat, Spring Oats, Oilseed radish, and Pearl Millet) cover crops were planted in October 2016.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit S1

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit.

Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit S2

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit S3

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit S4

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit T1

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit.

Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present. Stands of willow are also present and provide good cover to hunt from.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit T3

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit. Waterfowl friendly moist soil plants had a good year, with millet, smartweed and sedge being the dominant vegetation present. Stands of willow are also present and provide good cover to hunt from.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any ½ ton truck or larger.

Hunting Unit W1

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit with a lot of short willows intermixed.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any type of vehicle.

Hunting Unit W2

This is a walk-in unit this year. The old pit blind is present, but has not been camouflaged or pumped so is not useable and will not be maintained. Hunters will need at least hip waders to get to the majority of the unit. Hunters are required to stop shooting at noon (12 PM) and the unit has a 1 PM closure which means you must be completely out of the hunting area by 1 PM.

Habitat Conditions: This is in a flooded moist soil unit with a lot of short willows intermixed.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any type of vehicle.

Hunting Unit N4

This is a walk in unit and hunters may hunt from anywhere within the unit boundaries. Hunters will need to bring their own portable blinds for this unit as there are no blinds available.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is access to water on the south end of this unit where the Swan Lake Marsh is located. Hunters may hunt within the unit along the shoreline of the Swan Lake Marsh. The hunting unit boundary signs are out in the water a ways. It is about ½ mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit N2

This is a walk in unit and hunters may hunt from anywhere within the unit boundaries. Hunters will need to bring their own portable blinds for this unit as there are no blinds available.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is access to water on the south end of this unit where the Swan Lake Marsh is located. Hunters may hunt within the unit along the shoreline of the Swan Lake Marsh. The hunting unit boundary signs are out in the water a ways. It is about ½ mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit A3

This unit will be open during the late Goose season only. This is a walk in unit at which hunting can be done from anywhere within the unit. This unit will not be awarded through the draw but by check in at the Hunting Headquarters on Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the late Goose season from 5-7 AM, during that time both waterfowl and geese may be harvested so long as the season are open.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an ag field planted in soybeans, which will be planted in winter wheat in early October. There is access to water on the south end of the unit along a ditch; there are quite a few trees in the area along the ditch. It is about ½ mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit B4

This unit will be open during the late Goose season only. This is a walk in unit at which hunting can be done from anywhere within the unit. This unit will not be awarded through the draw but by check in at the Hunting Headquarters on Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the late Goose season from 5-7 AM, during that time both waterfowl and geese may be harvested so long as the season are open.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is access to water on the east side of the unit in a slough that comes in from Silver Lake. There are quite a few trees around the water area. It is about 1/2 mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located. In this hunting Unit you will not have access to the north shore of Silver Lake.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit E1

This is a walk in unit and hunters may hunt from anywhere within the unit boundaries. Hunters will need to bring their own portable blinds for this unit as there are no blinds available. There are levees you can hunt from within the unit but if you are going to get out in the unit you would need hip or chest waders.

Habitat Conditions: This unit is a wetland unit with a mix of moist soil, bulrush, and reed canary grass. There is some open water in the unit mainly on the west side.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit G2

This is a walk in unit and hunters may hunt from anywhere within the unit boundaries. Hunters will need to bring their own portable blinds for this unit as there are no blinds available.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is a small wetland with moist soil vegetation on the south end that can hold water when it is very rainy and wet.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit H2

This unit will be open during the late Goose season only. This is a walk in unit at which hunting can be done from anywhere within the unit. This unit will not be awarded through the draw but by check in at the Hunting Headquarters on Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the late Goose season from 5-7 AM, during that time both waterfowl and geese may be harvested so long as the season are open.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is access to water in the Northwest corner of the unit in a man-made slough. It is about ½ mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit J2

This is a walk in unit and hunters may hunt from anywhere within the unit boundaries. Hunters will need to bring their own portable blinds for this unit as there are no blinds available.

Habitat Conditions: Most of this unit is in an Ag field planted with soybeans due to be harvested sometime in November. There is access to water on the North and west end of the unit along a ditch and man-made slough and borrow ditch along the levee. It is about ½ mile walk from the parking area to where the water is located.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Hunting Unit A7

You must hunt from the blind in this unit. Preference in the draw for this unit will go to those parties that have a disabled person in the party. If there are no parties that meet this qualification then this unit will be drawn out with the regular draw.

Habitat Conditions: This unit is located along the Northeast shore of Silver Lake. The blind is overlooking water along the shoreline of the lake.

Vehicle requirements to access parking area of the Unit: You can access this hunting unit with any vehicle.

Overall Season Total			R2	S1	S2	S3	T1	T3	V1	W1	W2	N2	N4	A3	A7	B4	E1	G2	H2	J2
Total Days Hunted	169		1	13	14	15	18	9	13	13	15	9	16	1	11	3	7	1	2	8
Total Number of Hunters	405		1	37	30	37	52	24	26	33	39	27	22	4	25	6	19	3	5	15
Ducks per hunter			0	2.38	2.30	1.03	1.71	1.25	2.23	1.42	2.31	2.33	2.77	0.00	1.12	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	1.4
		Per/ hunter	Per/day																	
Ducks	692	1.71	24.71	0	88	69	89	30	58	47	90	63	61	0	28	0	10	0	0	11
Mallard	294	0.73	10.50	0	16	22	52	12	32	17	51	15	31	0	16	0	8	0	0	7
Gadwall	79	0.19	2.82	0	15	9	8	4	4	5	14	3	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wigeon	24	0.06	0.86	0	1	0	6	4	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pintail	24	0.06	0.86	0	4	1	6	0	0	4	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GW Teal	103	0.25	3.68	0	5	6	6	6	8	5	5	34	18	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
Shoveler	89	0.22	3.18	0	27	28	7	3	1	5	3	5	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Wood Duck	19	0.05	0.68	0	1	0	3	0	2	6	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Redhead	14	0.03	0.50	0	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ringneck	9	0.02	0.32	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup	11	0.03	0.39	0	7	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Ducks	23	0.06	0.82	0	4	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

Primary Waterfowl Use Areas and Waterfowl Hunting Units

2016

Units A3, B4, H2, R1, & R2 will only be open during late Goose season.

There is no draw, check in each Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun 5-7am

